REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct clerical and translation errors.

At page 24, the formulas representing an oxazole and a thiazole have been corrected. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily have recognized this error and how it should be corrected.

Also at page 24, the definition of U^{1a-1} has been amended to correctly indicate that the "alkyl," "alkenyl," and "alkynyl," are "alkylene," "alkenylene" and "alkynylene." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in the definition of U^{1}, which limits U^{1a-1}, and which is defined as alkylene, alkenylene and alkynylene.

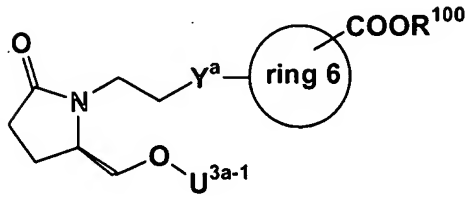
The amendments to pages 95, 117 and 126 are clerical in nature. In the reaction scheme on page 117, the spelling of the word Protection was corrected.

The amendments to pages 108, 109 and 131 are translation errors. A declaration by a translator to support these amendments will be filed presently.

Claims 2-16 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended to be commensurate in scope with the elected invention. Claim 21 recites the compounds of canceled claim 17 that are included in the elected invention. Accordingly, no new matter is added and entry of the amendment is requested, respectfully.

1. Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects the following group: Claims 1 and 18-21, directed to the compound represented by formula (I-a1-1):



(I-a1-1)

wherein:

Y^a is -S- or $-SO_2-$;

ring6 is 5 or 6 membered mono-heterocyclic aryl containing hetero atoms selected from 1 to 4 nitrogen, 1 to 2 oxygen, and/or 1 to 2 sulfur atom(s) which may be partially or fully saturated;

R^{100} is a hydrogen atom or C1-4 alkyl;

U^{3a-1} is ring4;

ring4 is (1) C3-15 mono-, bi- or tri-carbocyclic aryl which may be partially or fully saturated, which is substituted by R;

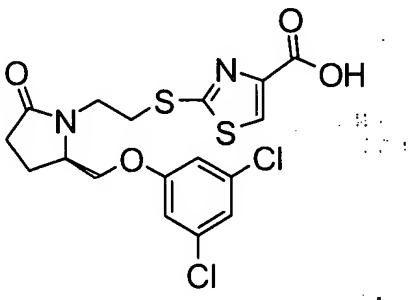
R is (1) C1-10 alkyl, (2) C2-10 alkenyl, (3) C2-10 alkynyl, (4) C1-10 alkoxy, (5) C1-10 alkylthio, (6) halogen, (7) hydroxy, (8) nitro, (9) $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, (10) C1-10 alkyl substituted by C1-10 alkoxy, (11) C1-10 alkyl substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms, (12) C1-10 alkyl substituted by C1-10 alkoxy substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms, (13) C1-10 alkyl substituted by $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, (14) ring5, (15) -O-ring5, (16) C1-10 alkyl substituted by ring5, (17) C2-10 alkenyl substituted by ring5, (18) C2-10 alkynyl substituted by ring5, (19) C1-10 alkoxy substituted by ring5, (20) C1-10 alkyl substituted by -O-ring5, (21) $COOR^{17}$, (22) C1-10alkoxy substituted by 1 to 4 halogen atoms, (23) formyl, (24) C1-10 alkyl substituted by hydroxy or (25) C2-10 acyl;

R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} is, each independently, (1) hydrogen atom or (2) C1-10 alkyl;

ring5 is (1) C3-15 mono-, bi- or tri-carbocyclic aryl which may be partially or fully saturated or (2) 3 to 15 membered mono-, bi- or tri-heterocyclic aryl containing hetero atoms selected from 1 to 4 nitrogen, 1 to 2 oxygen and/or 1 to 2 sulfur atom which may be partially or fully saturated;

ring5 may be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from following (1)-(9); (1) C1-10 alkyl, (2) C2-10 alkenyl, (3) C2-10 alkynyl, (4) C1-10 alkoxy, (5) C1-10 alkyl substituted by C1-10 alkoxy, (6) halogen atom, (7) hydroxy, (8) C1-10 alkyl substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms, (9) C1-10 alkyl substituted by C1-10 alkoxy substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms.

This group has been formed around the following compound described in Example 6(32):



As the specific condition to be treated, Applicant elects retinal neuropathy.

2. Discrepancy Between Examples and General Formula (I)

The Examiner asserted that the vast majority of specific compounds identified in the specification do not fall within the formula (I), as currently defined. The Examiner stated that in most of the compounds, the substituent A is an alkyl group, but formula (I) does not provide for A being an alkyl group. The Examiner required correction.

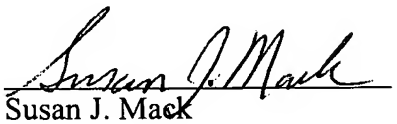
For the following reasons, Applicant submits, respectfully, that no such discrepancy exists. The substituent represented by A always contains (1) a straight-chain alkylene, (2) a straight-chain alkenylene, or (3) a straight-chain alkynylene, which may be substituted. In this definition, Applicant uses these terms to represent (1) an alkylene group, (2) an alkenylene group, or (3) an alkynylene group, respectively. Accordingly, the alkylene group represents -(CnH2n)-, e.g., $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, that is, the alkylene group has two bonds at both ends and has no double bonds.

As is apparent from the formula (I), the substituent A must have two bonds, one at each end, to bind to the substituents N and D. Accordingly, amendment of the definition of the substituent A to an alkyl would be inappropriate.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Mack
Registration No. 30,951

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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